CLAIMS

9. Method for approving a password corre-
sponding to a user identifier in a user identification
system in which method

5   the user identifier is associated with a user
profile,

the password consists of characters comprised
in a total range of characters, and

when a password is being changed a check is
10   performed before approval of the new password to ver-
ify the number of characters in the password that be-
long to a predefined subset in the total range of
characters, c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the method
further comprises the steps of:

15   a data item indicating whether the password
should contain a character belonging to a predefined
subset in the total range of characters is added to
the user profile, and

a check is performed in the user identifica-
20   tion system to verify whether the number of characters
belonging to a predefined subset in the total range of
characters that are included in the password is as re-
quired in the user profile.

10. Method as defined in claim 1, c h a r -
25   a c t e r i s e d in that a data item indicating a mini-
mum number of characters belonging to a predefined
subset in the total range of characters that are to be
included in the password is added to the user profile.

11 . System for approving a password corre-
30   sponding to a user identifier in a user identification
system in which system

the user identifier is associated with a user
profile,

the password consists of characters comprised
35   in a total range of characters, and

the user identification system comprises
means (4) for checking the password to verify the num-

ber of characters belonging to a predefined subset in the total range of characters when a password is being changed, before the new password is approved, c h a r - a c t e r i s e d in that the user identification system
5   further comprises

          means (1) for adding to the user profile a data item indicating the presence in the password of a character belonging to a predefined subset in the total range of characters, and

10   means (3) for comparing and verifying the number of characters in the password that belong to a predefined subset in the total range of characters and the number of characters required in the user profile.

          12.. System as defined in claim 3, c h a r -
15   a c t e r i s e d in that the user identification system comprises means (2) for adding to the user profile a data item indicating a minimum number of characters belonging to a predefined subset in the total range of characters that should be included in the password.

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